



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2020

Contact: Tioga County Legislative Office

TIOGA COUNTY

COVID-19 UPDATE - DECEMBER 30, 2020

Owego, NY – Tioga County Legislative Chairwoman Sauerbrey reported the following Tioga County COVID-19 Statistics:

- **1,677 Confirmed Cases** – Total confirmed cases, to date.
455 Individuals in Mandatory Quarantine - These are individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or individuals who traveled outside of New York State.
- **1,415 Recovered** – Total number of individuals who had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are now symptom free that meet the criteria to be released from isolation.
- **198 Active Cases**
- **64 Deaths**

This is a snapshot of data provided to Tioga County Public Health at this point in time. Administered tests are tracked in various ways from various locations.

Tioga County Legislative Chairwoman Sauerbrey reported Tioga County Public Health Department released the following information today regarding Tioga County COVID-19 Vaccination Updates.

Currently, the COVID-19 vaccination process is taking place at a regional level with the Governor making the determination when the vaccine can be given to the next population on the prioritization list. New York State is in Phase 1A of Distribution, which covers the following priority groups:

- Healthcare personnel (i.e., paid and unpaid personnel working in a healthcare setting)
- First responders in medical roles, such as emergency medical services providers
- Medical examiners and coroners, funeral workers
- Ambulatory care providers
- Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) staff and residents, including congregate settings overseen by Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Mental Health (OMH), and Office of Addiction Service and Support (OASAS)

New York State will likely be in Phase 1A for the next several weeks. Residents of Tioga County that are eligible to receive vaccination at this time are being notified and directed on how to be vaccinated. At this time, Tioga County does not have a confirmed date to receive vaccine; however, this could change based on directives from the Governor. In Phase 1A, the only administering entities are hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and in some counties, Point of Dispensing sites run by the Local Health Department. Please note that this decision was made by the Governor's Office.

Distribution is subject to a variety of factors, with the main factor being the availability of the vaccine, which is limited. Availability is expected to become less of an issue over the next few months, as New York State is now administering both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. Katie Wait, Tioga County Public Health's Vaccine Initiative Coordinator, asks, "Please be patient with us as we work through this process. We understand that you have questions that are unanswered, and we understand that is frustrating however, we will update you with any new information we receive as soon as it becomes available."

Our team here at Public Health is experiencing a higher than normal call volume with questions regarding when a particular population will be receiving their vaccine. As our phone lines are very busy, we would appreciate limiting your calls on this until we receive more information. We will continue to put out updates as they come down from New York State, so please continue to follow our Facebook Page and Website for future updates.

Tioga County Public Health, along with our planning partners from Tioga County Office of Emergency Services, Local School Superintendents, Department of Social Services, Waverly Police Department, and The Tioga County Legislature, are focusing planning efforts on when the vaccine becomes widely available at the community level. Again, we kindly ask that you remain patient with us, and we will publish any new information as it is released.

For further information, please refer to the following resources:

- **County Reporting:** <https://covid19.tiogacountyny.com>
- **Tioga County Coronavirus Response Hotline – 687-8225**
- **Facebook** @Tioga County Public Health
- **Facebook** @TiogaMH (Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene)
- **Tioga County Public Health Voicemail Line – 687-8623**
- **NYS Coronavirus Hotline:** 888-364-3065 (for general **questions or information about COVID-19**)
- **Tioga County Emergency Food Hotline: Dial 2-1-1**
- **New York State Guidance:** <https://forward.ny.gov/>

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